

our inability, the impossibility to predict with any element of certainty exactly when we will finish. We are working very hard on bills with the House of Representatives. Once those reports are addressed in the House, they can come here. Until that time, we continue to work to see that will occur in an expeditious way. It is the nature of the business. I am appreciative of everyone's assistance.

REFLECTIONS ON HANUKKAH

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, a very brief comment on this time of year, with a few reflections on a very special time—Hanukkah.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity, once again, to visit the State of Israel. I say without reserve, the land of Israel touches my soul. It does so when you are there and you have that opportunity to visit the Old City, to visit the Western Wall.

I took the opportunity to meet with Israelis from all walks of life, visiting several of the hospitals there, and visiting my professional colleagues in medicine. I came to appreciate even more deeply the 4,000 years of distinct and vibrant Jewish culture, as well as the Jewish people's hopeful triumph over adversity and persecution.

So now, as Jews all over the world begin to prepare for the celebration of Hanukkah, which this year begins on December 25, I invite my colleagues to reflect on its meaning and its relevance to the continuity of Jewish culture and survival.

The First Book of Maccabees, a venerated ancient text, tells the story of a revolt against a tyrant, the King Antiochus. King Antiochus was a tyrant, a cruel leader, who attempted to outlaw the practice of Judaism, to forbid the study of Torah, and to compel, to force the worship of idols.

Joined by corrupt politicians in the land of Judea, he succeeded for a time. Eventually, however, a popular uprising, led by a group who called themselves the Maccabees—and that translates into “hammer”—expelled his forces and reclaimed the Temple that became the center of the Jewish faith.

Upon entering the desecrated Temple, Jewish soldiers and priests discovered that the eternal flame within had extinguished. The last stores of oil, those last little bits of oil, would only keep the lamp lit for a single day.

They lit the lamp with the oil that was left, and then something miraculous happened. According to the ancient writings, instead of burning

down, the lamp oil continually filled and refilled and refilled, and the light in the Temple burned for 8 full days.

One can think of this story of faith and perseverance as truly emblematic of the Jewish journey. Just as, by God's grace, the lamp was continually filled, continually replenished, so, too, has the Jewish culture continued to thrive.

In honor of the rededication of the Temple and the Miracle of the Lights, Jews all over the world celebrate Hanukkah by lighting a Menorah and drawing their families close.

Children play games and exchange gifts and, as every Jewish family knows, potato latkes and donuts cooked in oil are holiday favorites.

As those of us who are Christian celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas, let us also reflect on the story of Hanukkah and the ways in which the Almighty touches our daily lives.

I do wish my fellow Americans of the Jewish faith a happy Hanukkah and a safe, prosperous holiday season.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW AT 6 P.M.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:55 p.m., adjourned until Sunday, December 18, 2005, at 6 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate Saturday, December 17, 2005:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

SUSAN P. BODINE, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

SANTANU K. BARUAH, OF OREGON, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

JOHN O. AGWUNOBI, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

JOHN O. AGWUNOBI, OF FLORIDA, TO BE MEDICAL DIRECTOR IN THE REGULAR CORPS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, SUBJECT TO THE QUALIFICATIONS THEREFORE AS PROVIDED BY LAW AND REGULATIONS.

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

MARK V. ROSENKER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2010.

KATHRYN HIGGINS, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2009.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

JEFFREY D. JARRETT, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (FOSSIL ENERGY).

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

DALE W. MEYERROSE, OF INDIANA, TO BE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

WILLIAM E. KOVACIC, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2004.

J. THOMAS ROSCH, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM SEPTEMBER 26, 2005.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

BRUCE COLE, OF INDIANA, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

MARY M. ROSE, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2011.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

GEORGE W. FORESMAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR PREPAREDNESS, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD RESERVE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. MICHAEL R. SEWARD

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DAVID STEELE BOHIGIAN, OF MISSOURI, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

ANTONIO FRATTO, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

DAVID M. SPOONER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

RICHARD T. CROWDER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHIEF AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATOR, OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CATHERINE LUCILLE HANAWAY, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STEPHANIE JOHNSON MONROE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DONALD A. GAMBATESA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MARILYN WARE, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO FINLAND.

IN THE COAST GUARD

COAST GUARD NOMINATION OF JAMES R. MONTGOMERY TO BE CAPTAIN.

COAST GUARD NOMINATION OF RICHARD E. PETHERBRIDGE TO BE COMMANDER.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BENES Z. ALDANA AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL L. WOOLARD, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 14, 2005.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH STEPHEN ADLER AND ENDING WITH PETER E. ZOHIMSKY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON DECEMBER 14, 2005.